metres, *i.e.* Rs.32,29,800, to the Competent Authority. Further, action in the matter would be taken in accordance with the provisions of the Act and any orders passed by the Court in this regard.

Demand and supply of LPG cylinders

198. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the monthly demand and supply of LPG cylinders in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand for the last three months, district-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that oil PSUs are not supplying LPG cylinders as per demand in these States; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof and the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) At present, the indigenous production of LPG is inadequate to meet the domestic requirements. The shortfall in availability is met through imports. The details of demand/ sales during the period from November, 2008 to January, 2009 are 100836 Metric Tonnes (MT), 108565 MT & 105639 MT in Uttar Pradesh and 11828 MT, 12614 MT & 11577 MT in Uttarakhand respectively. The district-wise details are available with the Director (Marketing) of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) concerned.

(b) and (c) OMCs have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with their LPG distributors.

OMCs have reported that as on 12.02.2009, a backlog of only one day exists in LPG supplies in the State of Uttar Pradesh due to spurt in demand. Government has advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in the State by operating the bottling plants on holidays and during extended hours.

Harnessing of coal bed methane

199. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken on a report published by global consulting firm KPMG stating proven reserves of 765 Mtoe (Million tones of oil equivalent) and indicated reserves of between 1260-2340 Mtoe of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) in the country; and

(b) what modalities were adopted to harness this source of energy, especially in view of India's requirement of 75 per cent fuel being imported, involving huge foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has not commissioned any study by consulting firm KPMG on coal bed methane. However, even before publication of India